

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 – 56 (canceled)

Claim 57 (previously presented): A capsule comprising a polyvinyl alcohol and a setting system comprising a hydrocolloid or mixtures thereof.

Claim 58 (previously presented): The capsule according to claim 57, having at least one coating thereon.

Claim 59 (previously presented): The capsule according to claim 58 wherein the at least one coating is made from a substance selected from the group consisting of cellulose acetate phthalate, polyvinyl acetate phthalate, methacrylic acid gelatins, hypromellose phthalate, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose phthalates, hydroxylalkyl methyl cellulose phthalates and combinations thereof.

Claim 60 (previously presented): The capsule according to claim 57, wherein the capsule comprises two halves sealed together.

Claim 61 (previously presented): The capsule according to claim 60, that the two halves are sealed by a liquid fusion process.

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Claim 62 (previously presented): The capsule according to claim 57, wherein the setting system further comprises cations.

Claim 63 (previously presented): The capsule according to claim 57, wherein the setting system further comprises a sequestering agent selected from the group consisting of ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid, acetic acid, boric acid, citric acid, edetic acid, gluconic acid, lactic acid, phosphoric acid, tartaric acid or salts thereof, methaphosphates, dihydroxyethylglycine, lecithin, beta cyclodextrin and combinations thereof.

Claim 64 (previously presented): The capsule according to claim 63, wherein the amount of the sequestering agent is 0.001 to 5% by weight based on the total weight of the composition.

Claim 65 (previously presented): The capsule according to claim 64, wherein the sequestering agent is selected from the group consisting of ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid, citric acid, their respective salts and combinations thereof.

Claim 66 (previously presented): The capsule according to claim 57 comprising 90 to 97% by weight of polyvinyl alcohol, 2 to 7% by weight of water, 0.01 to 10% by weight of hydrocolloids, and 0.001 to 5% by weight of cations based on the total weight of the capsule.

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Claim 67 (previously presented): The capsule according to claim 57, wherein the hydrocolloids are polysaccharides.

Claim 68 (previously presented): The capsule according to claim 67, wherein the polysaccharides are selected from the group consisting of alginates, agar gum, guar gum, locust bean gum (carbo), carrageenan, kappa-carrageenan, tara gum, gum Arabic, ghatti gum, khaya grandifolia gum, tragacanth gum, karaya gum, pectin, Arabian (araban), xanthan, gellan, starch, konjac mannan, galactomannan, funoran and combinations thereof.

Claim 69 (currently amended): The capsule according to claim ~~68~~ 67, wherein the polysaccharides are selected from the group consisting of xanthan, acetan, gellan, welan, rhamnan, furcelleran, succinoglycan, scleroglycan, schizophyllan, tamarind gum, curdlan, pullulan, dextran and combinations thereof.

Claim 70 (currently amended): The capsule according to claim ~~69~~ 67, wherein the polysaccharides are selected from the group consisting of gellan, kappa-carrageenan and combinations thereof and mixture of locust bean gum or xanthan with konjac mannan.

Claim 71 (previously presented): The capsule according to claim 57 further comprising at least one plasticizer in an amount from about 0 to 40% based upon the weight of the capsule.

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Claim 72 (previously presented): The capsule according to claim 57, further comprising at least one plasticizer in an amount from about 0 to 40% based upon the weight of the capsule.

Claim 73 (previously presented): The capsule according to claim 72, wherein the plasticizer is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol, glycerol, sorbitol, sucrose, corn syrup, fructose, dioctyl-sodium sulfosuccinate, triethyl citrate, tributyl citrate, 1,2-propylenglycol, mono-, di- and triacetates of glycerol, natural gums and combinations thereof.

Claim 74 (previously presented): The capsule according to claim 57, further comprising a coloring agent in an amount from about 0 to 10% based upon the weight of the capsule.

Claim 75 (previously presented): The capsule according to claim 74, wherein the coloring agent is selected from the group consisting of azo-, quinophthalone-, triphenylmethane-, xanthene- or indigoid dyes, iron oxides or hydroxides, titanium dioxide, natural dyes and combinations thereof.

Claim 76 (currently amended): The capsule according to claim ~~75~~ 74, wherein the coloring agent is selected from the group consisting of patent blue V, acid brilliant green BS, red 2G, azorubine, ponceau 4R, amaranth, D+C red 33, D+C yellow 10, yellow 2 G, FD+C yellow 5, FD+C yellow 6, FD+C red 3, FD+C red 40,

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FD+C blue 1, FD+C blue 2, FD+C green 3, brilliant black BN, and combinations thereof.

Claim 77 (currently amended): The capsule according to claim ~~76~~ 74, wherein the coloring agent is selected from the group consisting of carbon black, iron oxide black, iron oxide red, iron oxide yellow, titanium dioxide, riboflavin, carotenes, anthocyanines, turmeric, cochineal extract, chlorophyllin, canthaxanthin, caramel, betanin, and combinations thereof.

Claim 78 (previously presented): The capsule according to claim 57, wherein the capsule is a hard capsule.

Claim 79 (previously presented): The capsule according to claim 57 wherein the capsule is a soft capsule.

Claim 80 (previously presented): A method of manufacturing a capsule comprising a) forming an aqueous solution comprising 10 to 60% by weight of polyvinyl alcohol, 0.10 to 5% by weight of hydrocolloids and 0.001 to 3% by weight of cations and b) dip molding the aqueous solution to form said capsule.

Claim 81 (previously presented): A hard capsule comprising 90 to 97% by weight of polyvinyl alcohol, 2 to 7% by weight of water, 0.01 to 10% by weight of hydrocolloids, and 0.001 to 5% by weight of cations based on the total weight of the capsule.

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